

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-13, 15-20, 23-28, 30-32, 35-48, 55-61, 64-66, and 71-75 are pending in the present application. Claims 6, 9, 14, 21, 22, 33, 34, 49-54, 62, and 63 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 29 and 67-70 are cancelled. Claims 1, 30, 31, 55, 71, 74, and 75 are amended.

Substance of Telephone Interview

Applicants express appreciation to the Examiner for conducting a telephone interview with Applicants' representative, Bryan Hanks, on 20 September 2007. Applicants thank the Examiner for his thoughts and insights with respect to the present application. Applicants' representative discussed the claims and amendments reflected above with the Examiner, and Applicants' representative and the Examiner agreed that the amended claims distinguish over Brimhall.

Claim Objections

Claims 30 and 31 are objected to for depending from a cancelled claim. Claims 30 and 31 have been amended to correct this informality.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-13, 15-20, 26-28, 32, 40, 41, 44-48, 55-61, 64-66 and 71-75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,135,235 to

Brimhall ("Brimhall"). Amended claims 1, 55, 71, 74, and 75 distinguish over Brimhall. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 55, 71, 74, and 75 and submit that claims 1, 55, 71, 74, and 75 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10-13, 15-20, 26-28, 30-32, 40, 41, 44-48, 56-61, 64-66, 72, and 73 depend from claims 1, 55, and 71 and are allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 55, and 71 are allowable.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103


Claims 23-25, 36-39, 42, 43 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,135,235 to Brimhall ("Brimhall"). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23-25, 36-39, 42, 43 and 45 clearly distinguish over Brimhall. Claims 23-25, 36-39, 42, 43 and 45 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that each of the presently pending claims in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner has any further comments or suggestions, Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney to expedite the handling of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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